

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03727 151947Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 VO-05
INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /052 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5712

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3727

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, AR
SUBJECT: STATUS OF ICEM IN RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM

REF: (A) GENEVA 07114, (B) BUENOS AIRES 3647,
(C) BUENOS AIRES 3044

1. STATUS OF ICEM REMAINS UNCLEAR. AS REPORTED IN
REFTEL B, AT A RECENT MEETING 13 MAJOR WESTERN EMBASSIES
STRONGLY SUPPORTED ICEM ROLE IN RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM.
EMBOFFS RELAYED THE EMBASSIES' INTEREST TO INTERIOR
MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAN ROMAN MAY 12 WHO AGREED TO TAKE
UP MATTER AGAIN WITH MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY. (REPRE-
SENTATIVE EMBASSIES PLAN TO MEET WITH SAN ROMAN AT
INFORMAL SESSION THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE RIGHT OF
OPTION PROGRAM AND REITERATE SUPPORT FOR ICEM
PARTICIPATION.)

2. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED MAY 3 LETTER FROM HARGUINDEGUY
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR USG PAROLE PROGRAM FOR
REFUGEES (DESCRIBED IN THE LETTER AS "TRANSITORY
RESIDENTS") WHICH HAS BEEN HANDLED THROUGH UNHCR.
LETTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOA WILL NOT
ACCEPT UNHCR PARTICIPATION IN THE RESETTLEMENT
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03727 151947Z

OF ARGENTINE CITIZENS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. AS
LETTER REFERRED TO UNHCR AND NOT ICEM, WE ARE
UNCLEAR WHETHER THE MINISTER IN FACT INTENDED
TO EXCLUDE ICEM PARTICIPATION, DESPITE HIS EARLIER
POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN THE MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR
ON THE SAME ISSUE. (SEE REF C.) WE RAISED THE
LETTER WITH SAN ROMAN, BUT PUT SPECIAL EMPHASIS

ON THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM AND THE EMBASSIES' SUPPORT FOR ICEM PARTICIPATION. SAN ROMAN REQUESTED THE LOCAL ICEM DIRECTOR'S NAME AND NUMBER AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER BEFORE THE UPCOMING INFORMAL MEETING.

3. NOW THAT THE BUG HAS BEEN PLANTED IN THE MINISTRY'S EAR, EMBASSY FAVORS THE JOINT APPROACH OF JOINING WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER EUROPEAN AND NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN CALLING FOR ICEM PARTICIPATION. RATHER THAN DWELL ON THE HARGUINDEGUY LETTER, WE HOPE THAT THE MOMENTUM CREATED BY THE EMBASSIES' UNITED FRONT WILL LEAD TO DIRECT AND POSITIVE CONTACT BETWEEN ICEM AND GOA, EITHER WITH THE LOCAL ICEM REPRESENTATIVE OR WITH KOZAK SHOULD HE BE SUMMONED BY HIS COLLEAGUES HERE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE JOINT POSITIVE PERSUASION AND WILL REPORT NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
CASTRO

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Message Attributes

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